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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 481

By McNally

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Dr. William S. Bates,
Pastor Emeritus of the First Baptist Church in
Jackson.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. William S. Bates, Pastor Emeritus of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, William Bates was born in Chattanooga to the late William S. Bates, Sr. and Bessie Hyatt Bates and received his early education in Decatur; and

WHEREAS, He attended Oak Hill Baptist Academy, Mars Hill Baptist College, Carson-Newman Baptist College, graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary while pastoring at Dechard and Estill Springs, and later served with acumen as Director of Musicians in Rome, Georgia and Athens, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. Bates joined Dr. Wayne Dehoney at the First Baptist Church of Jackson and served as associate pastor for nearly ten years prior to becoming pastor at the First Baptist Church in Martin; and

WHEREAS, William Bates subsequently returned to Jackson to work in the Development Department at Union University for 14 remarkable years, in which position he was widely respected and admired by his peers and students alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1980's, Dr. Bates began a ten-year relationship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention as a Consultant to the Tennessee State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, He was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, William Bates served with probity for thirty years with the American Red Cross, both on the local level and in the organization's national offices, and received the Clara Barton Meritorium Award for his honorable service; he was also duly recognized by the Governor of Tennessee and the Tennessee House of Representatives for outstanding service; and

WHEREAS, As a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church, Dr. Bates gave of his time and immeasurable talents for 42 years to the Tennessee Baptist Convention, serving with distinction as President of that august body in 1990; and

WHEREAS, He was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, His many accomplishments aside, William Bates was most appreciative of the love and support he shared with his loving wife of 60 years, Christine Fanning Bates; their two sons, Wayne L. Bates, husband of Kay Gardner Bates; W. Milton Bates, husband of Jerry Bates; their daughter, Chery Christine Barnes; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bates was the loving grandfather of six grandchildren, Jennifer and Catherine Bates, Julie Cooper, wife of Dr. Alan Cooper, Jason Eric Bates, Christy Robinson, husband of Aaron, and Megan Barnes; and

WHEREAS, He leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. William S. Bates, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Bates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.